

Keim House  
1.1 miles west of Lobachsville, Pike Township  
Lobachsville Vicinity  
Berks County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1039

HABS  
PA  
6-LOBACH,  
2-

RECEIVED  
PA-1039

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## KEIM HOUSE

Location: Pennsylvania, Berks County, Lobachsville Vicinity,  
1.1 mi. W. of Lobachsville, Pike Township

Present Owner: Charles M. Boyer, R. D., Oley, Pennsylvania

Present Use: Rental Property

Brief Statement of Significance: A good example of an early Pennsylvania German farm-house, enlarged by succeeding generations.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. According to a painted, wooden plaque on the southeast gable, the house was built in 1732. A joint shows clearly in the masonry indicating that the house was built in at least two sections, the larger part probably first. The farm was started by Johannes Keim who came from Lindau, Bavaria about 1698 [ Birch ]. According to Croll, Johannes Keim left Germany after the French invasion of the Palatinate (1688-1697) which ruined him; visited Pennsylvania in 1698 and staked out a claim in the Oley valley; returned to Germany where he married Katarina, his first wife; returned to Pennsylvania in 1706 and settled on his claim living first in a log cabin; married for a second time in 1732; had a total of 16 children; died in 1753.

## B. References:

1. Birch, Edith White, "The Huguenot Settlers of Pennsylvania", The Historical Review of Berks County, Vol. VI, No. 3, April, 1941, pp. 78-82
2. Croll, Annals of the Oley Valley, (Reading, Pennsylvania: The Reading Eagle Press, 1926), pp. 69-74
3. Montgomery, R. S., "Houses of the Oley Valley", The Dutchman, Vol. VI, No. 3, (Winter, 1954-1955), pp. 16-26

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Keim house is a two story stone farmhouse which has been extended by an addition to the northeast which is about one-third as long as the original house. The entire house is covered by one long gable roof. The steep roof and wide proportions are Germanic in character. There are one story porches across the south and east sides which are covered by shed roofs supported by plain, thin wood posts. These porches were added later, probably in the late nineteenth century.

The fabric is sound and well-maintained as rental property by the present owners.

The foundations and walls are of native limestone, laid in irregular random courses.

Due to the remodeling and enlargement of the larger original portion of the house, it is difficult to determine which doors are original. The doors are deeply recessed in simple wood frames. The double hung sash windows are six over six panes, and have solid two panel shutters on both first and second floors.

The roof is a steeply pitched gable, covered at present with tin. There is a pent roof, between the first and second floor, across the northwest side which stops short of the corner at both ends.

The northwest side of the house is very close to the road and parallel with it. On the southeast side, the land slopes down to the barn and other buildings, one of which is an earlier house.

Prepared by  
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Schuylkill Valley Project, Reading, Pa.  
University of Pennsylvania for NPS  
August 15, 1958

Addendum to:

Keim House  
1.1 miles west of Lobachsville  
Lobachsville vicinity  
Pike Township  
Berks County  
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PHOTOGRAPH

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Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.